ACADEMY OF SCIENCES.

ITS EIGHTEENTH SPRING MEETING IN WASHINGTON CITY.

Discussion of Investigations Pursued by the Savants the Past Year—The Illustrious Dead—The Anthropological Reception.

The annual session of the National Academy of Sciences commenced yesterday in the lecture-room, National Museum. Prof. W. B. Rogers, of Boston, president, occupied the chair.

THE PRESIDENT.

In opening the session he stated that in lieu of the customary *resume* of scientific progress made during the year he should read an address, including biographical memoirs of Gould, Casswell, Holbrook and Gath, deceased members of the Academy. His paper referred to the lives and works of each in a manner that commanded the closest attention of his hearers. It contained much material of interest and value to scientific history.

THE SECRETARY.

Prof. Simon Newcomb, the secretary, called the roll upon the conclusion of Prof. Rogers's address, and the following answered to their names: Prof. Simon Newcomb, Prof. George F. Barker, Philadelphia; Prof. H. A. Rowland, Baltimore; Prof. W. H. Brewer, New Haven; Prof. C. H. F. Peters, Clinton: Prof. Benjamin Selliman, Yale; Prof. T. Sterry Hunt, Boston; Mr. S. H. Scudder, Cambridge; Gen. Henry Abbot, Willett's Point; Mr. George W. Hill, United States Nautical Almanac; Mr. C. A. Schott, United States Coast Survey; Gen. M. C. Meigs, Washington; Prof. G. J. Brush, New Haven; Prof. E. D. Cope, Philadelphia; Prof. S. F. Baird, Prof. Theodore A. Gill, Gen. A. A. Humphreys, Prof. H. A. Newton, Yale; Prof. J. W. Powell, Prof. J. H. C. Coffin, Prof. Alexander Agassiz, Prof. Wilcett Gibbs, New York; Prof. O. C. Marsh, Prof. W. B. Rogers, Prof. A. Hall.

There were also present Prof. Peter Parker, Commissioner Loring, Hon. Horatio King, Prof. Riley, and a number of ladies.

MISS PLIOCENE.

Though probably not fully grasping the meaning of many of the scientific terms employed in the learned papers read, Miss Pliocene sat throughout the session as interested a listener as her father by whose side she sat, or the silver-haired, scientific Prof. Eocene, who was occasionally seen to nod as Prof. Drybones during his discourse, dropped back into the Silurian or Devonian ages. The doors of the lecture-room being open to all, a number of sight-seeing strangers visited the museum during the session. Among these was an infantile member of the Pleistocene family, who though not particularly of a scientific turn, just dropped in to see, having escaped her nurse while the latter was closely inspecting a specimen of the *matrix torquata* in one of the cases outside.

PROF. EOCENE.

The first paper read following the president's biographical sketches, was: "The Course of the Gulf Stream since the Cretaceous Period," by Prof. Alexander Agassiz. Following this Prof. Gill read a paper entitled "The Genesis and Development of the Chiropterygium from the Ichthyopterygium." He traced the development of the quadruped limb from the fin, and observed that Cuvier and the anatomists of the last generation had obtained a very erroneous idea of the constitution of the fishes's shoulder, middle and pectoral fin on account of having taken their ideas from the study of such specialized fishes as the perch and cod.

Quite a lively discussion ensued on this communication, Prof. Cope taking the old view of Gegenbaur of the origin of limbs, while Prof. Marsh seemed inclined to accept the views, in part at least, of Prof. Gill.

Prof. Cope followed with a communication "On the Brain of the Phenacodus," or early tertiary mammal Other papers were read, as follows: "The affinities of Palæocampa, Meek and Worthen as evidence of the wide diversity of type in the earliest known Myriapods," by Prof. S. H. Scudder; and "Notes on the Geology of Yucatan," by Prof. Agassiz.

JUST DROPPED IN.

Prof. Baird, secretary of the Smithsonian, desirous that the members of the National Academy of Sciences should meet the members of the Philosophical, Anthropological and Biological societies of Washington, issued nearly 400 invitations, and the reception last evening at the National Museum was largely attended. Through a misunderstanding of the invitations, however, there were comparatively few ladies present, while the President's reception prevented the attendance of many Senators and Representatives.

Prof. Baird received the guests in the lecture-room, or northwest hall of the Museum building, assisted by Mrs. and Miss Baird and other ladies. The reception was entirely free from formalities, and was pronounced by all an enjoyable occasion. During the evening an elegant collation was partaken of by the guests. Among those present were: Prof. Rogers, Prof. O. T. Mason, Mr. H. W. Elliott, Dr. Joner, Dr. E. Flint and wife. Prof. Gore, Dr. Elliot Coues, Dr. Morgan. Prof. G. K. Gilbert, Dr. Webster A. Prentiss, Prof. Riley, Mr. and Mrs. James Stevenson, Hon. Horatio King, Prof. Cope and wife, Col. McDonald, Prof. Thomas Taylor, Dr. F. W. Taylor, Dr. Schæffer, Hon. Peter Parker and wife, Dr. L. F. Ward, Prof. Abbe, Dr. E. Flint and wife, Prof. Farquhar, Dr. Carl Schuerman, Dr. Vasey, Dr. True, Dr. C. A. White, Mr. J. C. Pilling, Mr. W. B. Taylor, Dr. Gale, Dr. Dewy and wife, Prof. Rhees, Dr. Reynolds and wife and Mr. Temple, of Wisconsin; Mr. Daniel Leech, Dr. Antisell, Dr. Elsey, Prof Baird, wife and daughter, Dr. Frank Baker, Vice-President Davis, Dr. Charles Rau, Mr. Nelson, Mr. L. M. Turner, Mr. Joseph M. Wilson and daughter, Prof. Hilgard, Prof. Ulke, Prof. G. Brown Goode and wife, Prof. Roch, Prof. Simon Newcomb, Dr. Dall, Mr. Charles E. Dodge, Mr. A. B. Johnson, Mr. G. W. Hill, Mr. David Hutchinson, Prof. Garnett, Dr. Henshaw, Prof. W. B. Hough, Prof. Brewer, Prof. Seaman, Dr. Dorsey, Prof. Silliman, Dr. Basil Norris, Dr. Rathbun, Mr. Garret, United States Navy; Dr. W. J. Hoffman, Prof. Ryder, Commissioner Marble, Dr. Yates, Dr. Augusta, Prof. Jenks, Mr. Otis Bigelow, Prof. Smillie, Ivan Petroff, the Arctic explorer; Dr. Thomas Gill, Mr. Edwin Smith, Mr. Nordhoff, Prof. Schott, Dr. T. Sterry Hunt, Mr. Victor Proudfit, Gen. Alvord, Chief Justice Waite, Dr. Scudder, Dr. Schufeldt, Dr. Keddin and wife, Dr. Earll, Mr. Frank H. Cushing, Prof. Alexander Agassiz, Dr. Howland, Dr. Burnett, Midshipman Bliss, United States Navy; Dr. Emil Bessels, Dr. William Lee, Mr. Spurr, Mr. Baker, Mr. Patton, Dr. Hornaday, Hon. J. J. Knox, Senator Hoar, Prof. Guss, Dr. Robert Fletcher, United States Navy; Dr. T. H. Bean and wife, Prof. Nicholson, Dr. Welling, Lieut. Dunwoody, Judge Armstrong and others.

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